

Creative Ways For Chaplains To Use Religious Retreats

(Situation)

My topic is to show creative ways for chaplains to use religious retreats. Since I have been involved in retreats in an Army Training Center, Fort Jackson, South Carolina, I would like to add to the topic and be more specific by stating this paper will be a staff study on Creative Ways For Chaplains to Use Religious Retreats on a Training Center. I will use my personnel experience, research from DACH, the Chaplains Board, literature from my own denomination (United Methodist Church) to cover all areas of concern.

The make-up of Fort Jackson has two (2) BCT Brigades, one (1) AIT Brigade and one (1) CST Brigade. Personnel for the AIT and CST Brigades come primarily, if not exclusively, from the two BCT Brigades. The implication is that an ongoing religious retreat program would be focused only on the trainees in two (2) Brigades. Advanced trainees would have already had the retreat opportunity when they were in basic. It is possible that on a one-time basis all four Brigades could be provided with a retreat opportunity.

Retreats would be provided for each new cycle of basic trainees on a year-round basis. I have borrowed the figures given for the Fort Jackson program and also the Fort Emerson group #7 estimates for retreats in our class programs. These help show consistency.

Fort Jackson is located in around ten (10) miles to the east of Columbia, South Carolina. The city is around 40,000 including the West Columbia area and two larger textile areas in the city limits. While Columbia offers many off-post retreat areas, there are none located on the military reservation.

I am assuming that something of a request has been given me as a task to research and report my findings to the Commander. When approval or non-approval is given then the minutely details will be followed up to materialize the study. All letters for assistance or funding would follow this decision.

In the staff study itself I have chose to leave out the concurrences because I am to understand these are not necessary for this research. I have requested the Chaplains Board, DACH Five Year Plan for guidance in funds and program assistance. Fort Jackson Chaplain section is under the DPCA and follows a TDA for the Post Chaplains Office but TOE for the Brigades. Certain sections of this study will reflect both types of request.



(CLASSIFICATION)

84

Headquarters, US Army Chaplain Center and School
Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island, New York 10305
020815 March 1976

ATSC-TE-RD

SUBJECT: Establishment of Religious Retreats for Trainees

1. PROBLEM: To provide the most effective religious retreat program for trainees at Fort Jackson Training Center.

2. ASSUMPTIONS:

a. The purpose of such a program would meet the spiritual renewal of soldiers while in training.

b. Attendance would be voluntary.

c. Retreats will not violate religious ethics nor demominational requirements.

3. FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM:

a. There are ^{about} approximately 20,000 students (trainees), ^{are} physically ^{obviously} present at Fort Jackson at any given time. This constitutes an immediate target group.

b. The training mission includes training an "all-around" ^{retreat} and best equipped soldier possible in basic course. This program is designed to take this into its objective.

c. Training schedules could include ^{what type? federalese} this type of program in the master schedule.

d. Week ends have proven to be the trainees' own time, and offering retreats offer a time for the soldiers to visit the city of Columbia and many of the local ~~demominational~~ churches. ^{other kinds of churches?}

e. The "fill" companies of the (2) two BCT Brigades offer immediate target groups for retreats.

f. The chapels, youth center (on post) offer enough room to carry on such a retreat program.

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should be g
f. The assigned chaplains of Fort Jackson, BCT ^b Brigades show an adequate number and denominational spread to conduct an on-going retreat program for incoming trainees. (see Annex C.) The proposed supervisory framework for ^c on-going operation.

i. g. Adequate financial resources, within reason, could be made available. (See annex B)

✓ h. Local lay leadership, if needed, would be available and have expressed a desire to give "self-help".

4. DISCUSSION:

a. Possible alternatives.

(1) Duty Day With God Retreats.

(a) Advantages: Would comply with present trends on other post? Could reach a greater number of trainees, especially with one day retreats. Would use only assigned personnel and chaplains.

(b) Disadvantages: Would not achieve as great ^c depth in interaction and may cost a day of duty without reaching as many goals: Scheduling could not reflect this time as extended training because of the hours and scope of program (not required).

What goals?

What does this mean?

(2) Week-end retreats.

(a) Advantages: Would provide more depth in ^d interaction and training and have a more lasting affect on the type of programs on post. The use of indigenous personel could be used more wisely and use of Chaplains for a more lasting outreach.

(b) Disadvantages: Could not attract ^e a large number of trainees where little or no religious interest would be and thus reach only a select few. Choice for selection would defeat the nature of the program.

spelling?

(3) One week, comprehensive type retreats.

(a) Advantages: Directs attention to a more comprehensive moral look at the soldier. Could use the approach of alternatives (1) and (2) as well as increase the scope of moral life, religious needs and experiences of the trainee in the Army. Could develop ^f and counsel the soldier on marriage, home, ^{numerous} family as well as his own growth issues.

(b) Disadvantages: Would require a lot of resources; will require assistance from companies to solve scheduling difficulties.

b. Comparison of alternatives:

(1) Since Fort Jackson is a training installation, where very large numbers of men are stationed, the emphasis in a religious retreat program should be on reaching as many who need the experience, rather than on achieving "the know how" of a few. Therefore alternative (1) would be more advantageous than alternative (2).

This should be clearer.

(2) The purpose of a retreat/or program is to reach the greatest number of trainees at the greatest spiritual depth. The alternatives represent a choice between kinds of retreats the Army has to offer. The longer retreats would give this kind of outreach. Alternative (2) would be better than (1) if this were the consideration.


c. Annex D gives details and discussion.

5. CONCLUSION: "Duty Day With God Retreats" incorporate a greater number of trainees, at a one-time retreat. This approach seems to be more universal and comprehensive on company levels for new persons entering the Army.

6. ACTION RECOMMENDED:

a. That the "Duty Day With God Retreat" be programed and approved as outlined in ~~the~~ Annex A and be implemented.

b. That the program begin with the next cycle of trainees on the schedule.


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Staff Chaplain

ANNEXES: A-Outline of suggested program
B-Proposed Funding
C-Organization chart for supervision/reports lesson learn
D-Detailed discussion for comparison

ACTION BY APPROVING AUTHORITY:

APPROVED/ DISAPPROVED- INCLUDING/EXCLUDING EXCEPTIONS.

Signature block

ANNEX A. - Outline of suggested program

My objective will be to divide the retreats into separate phases. Ideally each phase would be executed, but if time becomes a factor, then phase I and II could be divided into a combined phase without destroying the retreat and then the total retreat would be two short phases and one complete phase III. The objective will be the core of the retreats. How?

I. Phase I. "Kickoff Day" as a one time basis.

A. Protestants ^{Conduct} Have a mass rally at the McLean Field House which can seat over six-hundred persons. Invite the Post Commander, a widely known speaker from the Christian Athlete's Association or the Business Men's Gospel group in Columbia. This kind of mass rally can get the men and women together and better gain support from them to go into the other phases knowing what is going to happen. Let them know we are not just trying to meet the chaplains or the commands needs but to meet the soldiers (men and women's) needs in and through these retreats.

B. Catholic Same type of approach, using a well known Catholic pastor, High School personel, special interest persons (such as lay persons) to interact with the total group. Phase I to be held a week before the Phase II would begin.

C. Jewish; Similar approach as above. Emphasis to be on meeting the objective as near an ecumenical "Kickoff Day" as possible. Invite members of the Jewish Welfare Board in the Columbia area to attend.

II. Phase II. Religious Advance Week as a one time basis.

A. The objective of this advance week is to follow up on the progress of Phase I. Retreats for all trainees on post, utilizing guest, clergy, speakers (lay and professional) to speak to each battalion-size training group. If this objective is met, then it is estimated that the potentials of 645 Protestants, 350 Catholics, 33 Jews equal to 1025 persons involved from each battalion. All unit chapels, Post Chapel, and other areas needed could be used. This gives four brigades of three battalions each in the kick off stage. More than twenty-four (24) retreats would be held in the Phase II. week.

The Jewish retreat would be combined to one type advance week program. The Jewish Chaplain would be the action officer for this.

(*) If Phase I and II were to be combined, it would lessen the time phase to having the "kick-off" and "retreats in battalion" to take place in a three day cycle and no break in time from one to another.

III. Phase III: The Continuing Retreat Program at Fort Jackson

appealing
The assigned chaplains would conduct one Catholic, one Protestant ~~Retreat~~ for each two(2) new filled companies in each of the 2 BCT Brigades each week. Outside civilian speakers would not be needed in the continued phase. The objectives of having contact, offering counseling and guidance as well as involvement in the total religious needs of the units and persons in the units will assist the chaplains in the retreat purpose. Refreshments would be provided by the units. Requesting that "fill week" be the best time to bring attention to the spiritual, moral and vital needs of the new trainee. A full day of duty time would be necessary for each training company. Attendance should be voluntary with the information of "what type of retreat this is designed for... and for whom". Company commanders and other key ~~staff persons~~ would be encouraged to attend with their companies.

The Jewish ~~Chaplain~~ or lay leader would conduct one retreat for all Jewish persons once a month rather than each week. Names would be filed for contact through the companies.

Progress reports/ review and annalysis should be compiled as a "lessons learn device" and not as a means for a product. Questions and answer periods should be held to assist persons who have a need-to-know/how-to help the trainee. The retreats will be changable if and should the need advise such change.

This annex indicates that you have given considerable thought to your subject, but it is difficult to read. You write "gobbledygook."

ANNEX B - Proposed Funds

I. Costs:

A. Phase I (One time event)

1. Honoraria/ fees for at least three guest personalities, (Protestant, Jewish and Catholic)	\$1,000.
2. Travel expenses	500.
3. Lodging and food for one day and night	200.

	\$1,700.

B. Phase II (One time event)

1. Honoraria/ fees for guest speakers: 4 Catholic and 4 Protestant and 1 Jewish - each to speak more than once in the event to different groups	\$1,250.
2. Travel expenses	500.
3. Lodging and food for one day and night	200.
4. Literature	300.
5. Films (rentals)(after approval by DACH)	200.
6. Publicity	100.
7. Refreshments, supplies	150.
8. Supplies (for religious use) Protestant crosses, Catholic medals/rosaries(blessed) and Star of David for Jewish	400.

	\$3,100.

C. Phase III (Annual program)

1. Retreat text books to be retained for each group use	\$1,750.
2. Retreat articles for workshops (P,C,J)	1,250.
3. Refreshments expenses	1,000.

	\$4,000.

D. Recap:

1. Phase I	\$1,700.
2. Phase II	3,100.
3. Phase III	4,000.

Recap Total= \$8,800.	\$8,800. *

ANNEX B - Proposed Funding

II. Proposed Funding:

A. Phase I

1. The chaplains (non-appropriated) funds.	\$ 700.
By three accts (Protestant, Catholic and Jewish)	
2. Request from Fort Jackson CWF	500.
3. Request from P&C for contracts on speakers	500.
(Use of Kelly services)	-----
	\$1,700.

B. Phase II

1. Special request using the DACH (Specialized Funds) and grants	\$3,100.
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C. Phase III

1. Request from earmarked funds in .G1000 funds for retreats (Contractual) EOE 25	\$2,500.
2. Request from earmarked funds in .G1000 funds for supplies (Contractual) EOE 26	1,500.

	\$4,000.

D. Recap: (Funds proposed)

1. Chaplain's Fund (Non-appropriated)	\$ 700.
2. Fort Jackson CWF	500.
3. P&C contracts (Use of Kelly services)	500.
4. Chief of Chaplains Specialized Funds	3,100.
5. .G1000 Chaplains appropriated funds	4,000.

	\$ 8,800.

Total recap:= \$ 8,800.

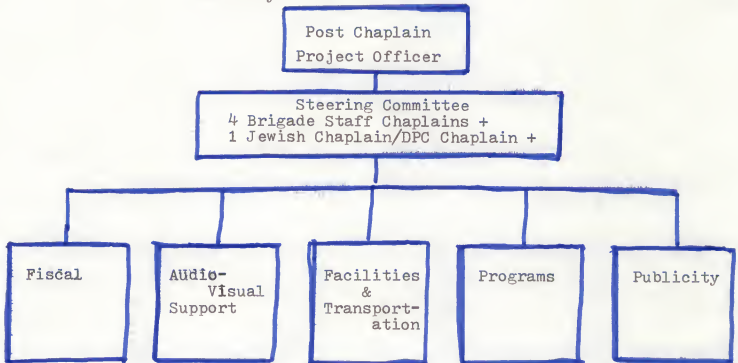
Why aren't you consistent in the use of periods?

ANNEX C- Organization chart for supervision/
reports lesson learned.

The Post Chaplain: Project Officer

Steering Committee: The Brigade Staff Chaplains
Jewish Chaplain
DPC (Catholic)

Areas of concern: Fiscal support
Audio-Visual support
Programs
Housing and transportation
Publicity



Lessons Learned: Reports will be due in the form of "lesson learn"
for the committee following each Phase. One working day, ^{plus, each phase} is the sub-
pense date. Format will include: Scope, Purpose, and Desired results.

Scope: What was the objective?

Purpose: How did you observe the objective being met?

Desired results: What would be an affective change?

ANNEX D - Detailed Discussion

I. Possible alternatives.

Complete in 3 incomplete sentences

A. Conduct weekend retreats. This course of action saves training scheduling time. Provides some flexibility as to where retreats can be held. The week end may not come at the beginning or the end of the training cycle. Such a retreat would probably involve fewer persons the interaction would be much greater. The learning would be of higher intake.

The disadvantage to this alternative might be motivation as a training person to see its value on a week end. "Off-Duty" time is personal time, and the commitment for chaplains would not be as great. It could interfere with chapel schedules.

Why do you hypothesize one of not the other?

B. Conduct a one-time weekday "Tri-Faith" retreat. It will reach more trainees, give more experience in others denominational types of worship and sharing. It could be scheduled in "fill week" so as not to be in the scheduling cycle. *bad word federal*

The disadvantage to this is the abilities of group expression and learning having just come into the Army. Talents would not have emerged from the change of life styles. Here again, this the difficulty of meeting the objectives of a retreat as subscribed by the Chaplains Board of DACH. *right word*

C. Religious Rally Day. Have an outstanding personality to come for a one day post wide "rally day" for the spiritual welfare of the troops.

incomplete sentence

The disadvantage to this would be the scheduling, getting such support across post to controll and organize such a day. Meeting the requirements and resources for such a large undertaking.

II. Comparison of the above alternatives.

What?

A. Any approach to the today's training soldier must consider not only what he is expected to do, but what kind of person is this citizen? Development in moral, spiritual, and insights into the person are, in fact, the duty of this training center. Being realistic, effective is worth the cost, taxes, and future of the soldier. Any approach can be said to be of value in training the soldiers of this command.

B. Therefore, considering alternatives, a choice must be made between reaching many and reaching a few. Since Fort Jackson's mission is to train a well advanced soldier in a relative short time, it would appear that alternative 2 is more suited to the training need.

An addition of alternative 3 would potentially give more strength to the total outreach and make the program more comprehensive.